



Second in an occasional series of articles introducing the history and basic principles of municipal government.

THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

The council-manager system of local government combines the political leadership of elected officials with the managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. This establishes a representative system with all power concentrated in the elected council, and the delivery of public services guided by a professionally trained manager.

Born out of the turn-of-the-century progressive reform movement, the council-manager system is one of the few original American contributions to political theory. Since its establishment, it has become the most popular form of government in US communities with populations of more than 5,000. Lafayette has operated under the council-manager form of government since its incorporation in 1968.

The City Council's Function

The council is the City's legislative and quasi-judicial body. Its members are elected, and empowered to serve as the community's decision makers. It focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and long-term issues including community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, financing, and strategic planning. Lafayette's council members serve as volunteers and are not paid for their services to the community.

Where the Mayor Fits In

In council-manager communities, the mayor presides at council meetings; serves as a spokesperson for the community; facilitates communication and understanding between elected and appointed officials; assists

(cont. on page 2)

NEW ILLUMINATED CROSSWALKS

Experimental flashing lights that warn motorists of pedestrian traffic are being tested at two Lafayette crosswalks. The solar-powered, amber-colored strobe lights are automatically activated by overhead presence detectors when pedestrians enter the crosswalks.

The crosswalk lights don't require that approaching drivers stop, but are intended to warn them of the presence of pedestrians, and prompt them to slow down. Pedestrians must still exercise caution, and shouldn't begin crossing the street until they are certain that oncoming motorists can see them, are decreasing speed, and are yielding the right-of-way.

The crosswalk lights are embedded in the roadway and reflect out towards oncoming traffic. They are programmed to allow sufficient time for motorists to come to a safe stop, and for pedestrians

to cross the street safely without impeding the traffic flow.

The crosswalk lights, which will be evaluated over the next six months, are located at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Rd. and Condit Rd. (near the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail) and at Mt. Diablo Blvd. near Carol Lane (in front of the Lafayette Park Hotel). The test is part of a five-city program to improve pedestrian safety that also includes Fort Bragg, Willits, Petaluma and West Hollywood. Lafayette secured grant funding from the State Office of Traffic Safety for this program.

Initial tests of prototype crosswalk lights in Santa Rosa resulted in speeds decreasing approximately 10 percent, and driver awareness increasing 23 percent.

For more information, please contact Transportation Coordinator Ashley Nguyen at (510)284-1976.

COP-ON-A-BIKE

Lafayette has had a uniformed cop-on-a-bike patrolling its downtown business area since the Christmas season. Officer Tim Guter works a split shift, with half his time spent on a bicycle, and the other half devoted to traffic enforcement in a patrol car.

The two-wheeled patrol unit provides excellent mobility in congested traffic, and affords business people and shopkeepers with an increased sense of security. Officer Guter also patrols around schools and on the bike paths, covering approximately 12 miles a day. Area residents and businesses have been particularly enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with the police in this more informal setting.

"The Bike Patrol Program encourages better communication by removing the barrier of a patrol car," says Sergeant Rich Dussell, who spearheaded the effort to fund the \$50,000 program through a State grant he hopes will be available again this fall. "The program has been a terrific success, and is getting lots of support and rave reviews."

In fact, the Crime Commission has shown its support by donating an additional bike for use by members of the police reserve.

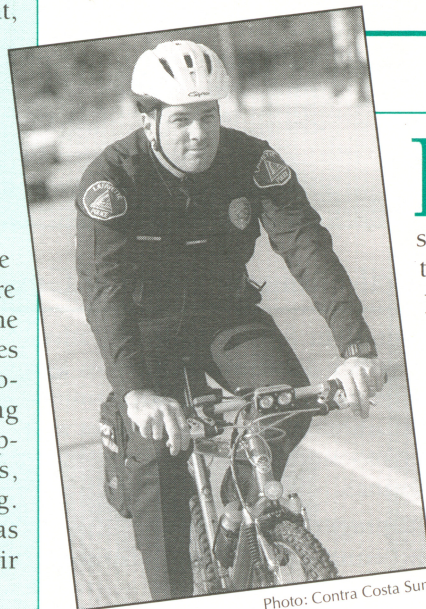


Photo: Contra Costa Sun

FLOOD EMERGENCY MEASURES APPROVED

Rulings Define Responsibilities – Allow Staff To Act Quickly

In the wake of January's destructive storms, the City Council has approved policy statements that clearly define the City's responsibilities for maintenance and repair of drainage facilities, and enable the City to alleviate or abate potential problems in creeks on private property to prevent flooding emergencies. The new ordinance also allows the City to recover costs from property owners for the abatement of private creek hazards.

In summary,

- The City is responsible for all maintenance, including clearing debris, to drainage facilities and improvements built by or for the City.
- The City is not responsible for maintaining drains that have been built solely for the benefit of private property owners, even when they connect to a public drainage system. These drains are not considered public improvements, and property owners are responsible for their maintenance and repair.
- Property owners are responsible for all drainage facilities, including creeks, on private property.

However, in instances where private owners are absent or unresponsive, the ordinance authorizes staff members to act quickly. When there is an imminent threat to public safety and there is not time to hold hearings, staff may spend up to \$5,000 per imminent threat incident. If the property owner does not pay the bill voluntarily, the City would recover the cost through an assessment on the property.

Tony Coe, the City's public works services manager, advises residents to be vigilant in keeping creeks as well as all ditch and drainage facilities free of debris. "Residents must take the initiative to keep their portion of drainage facilities free flowing," he says. "We saw this winter how quickly small, individual blockages can come together to cause major problems."

Coe encourages residents to talk with their neighbors about any problems that would obstruct free flow of a creek. If there's a situation that can't be resolved between neighbors, residents should call the State Fish and Game Warden Dispatch office (707-944-5512) or bring their concerns to the City's attention.

OUTDOORS IN LAFAYETTE

Spring is springing – and for newcomers wanting to get some exercise while exploring the area – Lafayette has plenty to offer.

Lafayette Reservoir

The paved trail that circles the Lafayette Reservoir is popular with walkers, and open to bicyclists and skaters on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from noon until closing, and on Sundays, from 6am to 11am. The 928-acre recreation area also offers hiking on dirt trails, fishing, and boating. The Visitors Center, where you'll find maps, brochures and photographic displays, is open daily. The Lafayette Reservoir Recreation Area (284-9669) is at 3849 Mt. Diablo Blvd., east of El Nido Ranch Rd.



Neighborhood and Regional Trails

In all, there are over 20 miles of walking and hiking trails within the City's limits: four linking or feeder trails provide easy neighborhood access to three regional trails. Detailed maps are available from the Lafayette Parks and Recreation office. Please call 284-2232 to order.

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAILS:	Length (miles)	Usage
• Walter Costa Trail	2.17	Walking/Partial Bicycling
• Silver Springs Loop Trail	0.78	Walking
• Moraga Rd-Reservoir Rim	0.62	Walking
• Springhill Valley Trail	0.75	Walking
REGIONAL TRAILS:	Length (miles)	Usage
• Lafayette Ridge Trail	4.34	Hiking/Horseback Riding
• EBMUD Reservoir Trails	4.75 (Rim)	Hiking
	2.80 (Lower)	Walking/Jogging/Bicycling
• Lafayette-Moraga Trail	7.65	Walking/Jogging/Bicycling Horseback Riding on Dirt

Newcomers looking for companionship during their explorations should contact the Lafayette Parks & Recreation-sponsored Lafayette Hiking Group. There is a \$5 fee to cover printing and mailing costs for 4 seasonal schedules.

Council-Manager Form of Government (Cont. from front page)

the council in setting goals and advocating policy decisions; and serves as a promoter and defender of the community. In addition, the mayor serves as a key representative in inter-governmental relations.

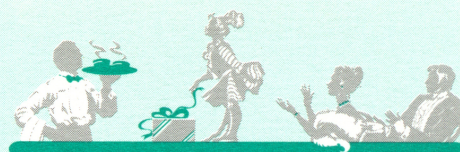
The Manager's Function

The council hires a professional manager to carry out administrative responsibilities and to serve the council and the community. The manager prepares a budget for the council's consideration; recruits, hires, and supervises staff; serves as the council's chief adviser; and carries out the council's policies. Council members and residents count on the manager to

provide complete and objective information, and to evaluate alternatives and long-term consequences.

Council-Manager vs. Strong Mayor

Through its use of volunteers as policy-makers and a professionally-trained administrator, the Council-Manager form of government differs significantly from the so-called "Strong Mayor" configuration that is typical of America's larger cities, including San Francisco and Oakland. Note, however, that though the big cities may receive more media attention, most of California's cities (roughly 470 of the 480 incorporated municipalities) have selected the council-manager form.



NEWCOMERS Corner

An Introduction for New Residents to the Resources of Lafayette

"Independence Day at The Park"

Planning is underway for Lafayette's second annual "Independence Day at The Park" celebration, organized by and benefitting *The Lafayette Community Parklands Foundation* and co-sponsored by the *City of Lafayette*. The festivities will occur at the south meadow baseball/soccer fields of Lafayette's Phase 1 Community Park improvements. These are located approximately 100 yards south of South Lucille Lane on St. Mary's Rd.

The event, scheduled to last from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm will feature many activities aimed at entertaining and challenging the entire family. Preceded by early morning tours of Lafayette's entire 68 acre park site and a pancake breakfast, the day's events will feature a three-ring circus approach to traditional small-town-America activities including: a BBQ, food and drinks, live music, sports challenges, entertainment, bake sale, a soccer clinic, a return of the popular politicians dunk-tank, Little League coaches challenge softball game, open displays of patriotism and more.

Proceeds from this event will be combined with future Foundation donations and Grants and will assist the Foundation in reaching it's 1996/97 goal of funding Phase 1A of the park. This phase will provide public restrooms, permanent maintenance/storage facilities, group and family picnic and playlawn areas and pave the current gravel parking lot. Also included and expected to be completed by the July 4th Celebration, is the Barbara Gonser Bozzini Memorial Children's Playground. All of these future improvements will be adjacent to and compliment the new play fields and will facilitate more broad-based community usage of the new park. The estimated cost of the next phase is approximately \$650,000.



ROAD & DRAIN UPDATE

On March 7, 1995, Lafayette voters approved a bond measure to fund repairs to roads and drains. In addition to the continuation of the Pavement Management Program, following are the projects which are/will be completed in 1997:

- El Nido Ranch Rd.: Mt. Diablo Blvd. to Hwy. 24 Ramps
- Hidden Valley, Diablo Circle, Middle Rd.
- Upper Happy Valley Rd.

Projects scheduled for construction beginning in 1997:

- Dewing Ave./ Boyer Circle
- Los Palos Dr.
- St. Mary's Rd. at Driftwood
- Los Arabis Dr.
- Moraga Blvd.: Victoria Ave. to Carol Lane
- Valente Ct.

Homeless Benefit from Matching Grant

The Contra Costa Board of Supervisors has called on the County's cities to supplement the approximately \$700,000 it has available to shelter the homeless this year. In response, Lafayette's City Council has offered to match donations made by the community to benefit the homeless up to a total of \$1,000.

If you'd like to contribute, send your check (payable to Contra Costa Cares) to the City Office, Attention: Rebecca Lee. Donations are fully tax deductible.

AROUND TOWN

April 26 LAFAYETTE JUNIORS' THIRD ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

This popular fund-raiser event will be held at the Lafayette Veterans Hall at 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit the Lafayette Library, The Organization for Youth Services (T.O.Y.S.), Contact Care, Kindergym, and other local charities. For more information, call Colleen McCormick at 299-0813.

June 2 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

The City Council has scheduled a special session to determine the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st. Lafayette Community Center, Sequoia Rm, 500 St. Mary's Rd., 6:30 pm.

Jun 23 - Aug 1 SUMMER FUN 1997

Lafayette's Parks and Recreation Dept. presents a wide variety of programs for children entering Kindergarten - 8th grade. Programs run from 9:00 am to noon, with afternoon Adventure Camp from noon to 5:00 pm. To register, contact the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., 284-2232.

July 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY AT THE PARK

Lafayette's 2nd Annual "Independence Day at The Park" celebration will be held at the south meadow baseball/soccer fields, approximately 100 yards south of South Lucille Lane on St. Mary's Rd. (See the accompanying article for more information). 9:30 am - 3:00 pm. Call Mike Collier at 283-9073 for more information.

July 20 CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE

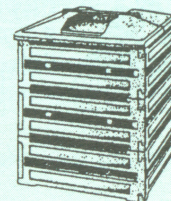
Lafayette's biggest annual affair and fundraiser for local charities and the Chamber of Commerce. Inspect beautiful vintage autos and bump into old neighbors and friends. For information call the Chamber at 284-7407.

HOME COMPOSTING PROGRAM REMINDER!

Now's your chance to purchase this popular home compost bin for only \$45 (including tax & shipping). The "Home Composting for Busy People Program," sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, will ship the Biostack directly to your door. Mail your check or money order for \$45, made payable to "CCSWA" to:

CCCSWA
1700 N. Broadway, Suite 312
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Please include your name, daytime phone and delivery address with zip code. Allow 2-6 weeks for delivery.



HISTORIC SNAPSHOTS

Part 5: Railroad, Water
System & Tunnel Encourage
Development & Growth

In this fifth installment of "Historic Snapshots," our ongoing series on the history of Lafayette, we highlight the three major developments that caused the character of the community to change from the hub of an agricultural area to that of a busy residential city.

At the turn of the century, Lafayette was just a small rural town. But by 1913, a passenger railroad line running through Lafayette encouraged steady population growth and fueled the demand for more homes. Convenient transportation caused a boom in the real estate market that paved the way for the major land development projects of the early 1940s, forever changing the character of Lafayette and Contra Costa County.

The Sacramento Northern (previously the Oakland and Antioch Electric Railway) established stops between Lafayette and Moraga, along a route roughly parallel to St. Mary's Rd. Passenger service continued until 1942, and the line carried freight until the early 1960s. The Lafayette-Moraga regional hiking trail follows the old railroad right-of-way. Old-fashioned railroad signs along the trail mark the sites of the stations; Reliez (located where Reliez Station Rd. and Olympic Blvd. begin), West Lafayette (near Birdhaven at the end of School St.), Burton, Glenside and Lucille.

A 1913 flyer for property in the "New Townsite of Lafayette" encouraged local historian Bill Wakeman's parents to settle in Lafayette. The area along First St. between Golden Gate Way and Moraga Blvd. was developed during 1913-1920, aided by circulars promoting features like these:

- Only thirty minutes from Oakland and one hour from San Francisco on the Scenic High Line Route of the Oakland and Antioch Electric Railway.
- The climate is superb. Days that are raw, damp and windy around the Bay are delightful and balmy at Lafayette. There are no fogs.
- We are offering terms that are exceptionally liberal. Ten percent down and a few dollars a month gives you immediate possession.

As the population grew, continued development wasn't feasible without a reliable source of public water. As private wells dried up in an early 1920's drought, the Lafayette Improvement Club appointed Colonel M.M. Garrett (the realtor who built the brick building on Mt. Diablo Blvd. which now houses Tourelle restaurant) to arrange for a speaker knowledgeable about securing access to a public water supply. The Club's efforts to encourage Lafayette residents to tap into the EBMUD system culminated in a unanimous 193 votes for approval in 1930.

The Lafayette Improvement Club also played an active role in lobbying for the Broadway Low-Level Tunnel (now called the Caldecott Tunnel). Although the State allocated funds for the project as early as 1928, construction didn't begin until 1934. Engineering problems and bankrupt construction companies delayed completion of the tunnel until the end of 1937. This low-level tunnel replaced the half-mile long high level tunnel carved through the top of the Oakland-Berkeley hills that was in use between 1904 and the 1940s.

Photos provided by and printed courtesy of the Lafayette Library Historical Archives.
Thanks to Bill Wakeman and the Lafayette Historical Society for their ongoing contributions to this series.



The "Sacramento Northern Railroad" had a stop at the West Lafayette Station located at the end of School St.

CITY DIRECTORY

Leave your Council Members a message
on the City's voice mail system!
Call 299-3232

Officers

Donald L. Tatzin	Mayor	272
Anne Grodin	Vice Mayor	274
Judy Garvens	Council Member	273
Erling Horn	Council Member	271
Vacant	Council Member	270

EXT.

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

The City Council meets at 7:00 pm on
the second and fourth Monday of the month
at the Lafayette Community Center,
500 St. Mary's Road.

Staff Contacts

Steven B. Falk	City Manager
Rebecca Lee	Admin. Svcs. Director
Niroop K. Srivatsa	Comm. Dev. Director
Tony Coe	City Engineer
Mike Henn	Planning Serv. Mgr.
Jennifer Russell	Parks and Rec. Director
Vacant	Public Works Serv. Mgr.
Sue Jusaitis	City Clerk
Mike Ilg	Police Services Mgr.
Juliet Shanks	School Bus Coordinator

City Offices and Police

Street Address:	3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 210
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1968 Lafayette, CA 94549-1968

City Telephone Numbers

Administration:	284-1968
Engineering:	284-1951
Planning:	284-1976
Parks and Rec:	284-2232
Public Works:	284-1968
Senior Services:	284-5050
Police Business:	284-5010
Police Emergency:	911
Voice Mail System:	299-3232

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

is published for the residents of Lafayette and reports on issues, people and events that affect our city. As a member of this community, you are encouraged to contact us with your questions and comments. We request all correspondence be sent to:

Rebecca Lee, Editor, Lafayette Vistas
City of Lafayette
P.O. Box 1968, Lafayette, CA 94549-1968
510-284-1968 • FAX: 510-284-3169
On-Line: Lafayette1968@aol.com



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